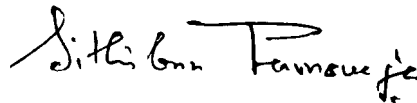


INTRODUCTION

It is my pleasure as the Director General of the Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences (AFRIMS) to provide this introduction to the AFRIMS Annual Progress Report, for October 1977 - September 1978. This Report summarizes the results of continuing research efforts and close cooperation between the staffs of the THAI and the U.S. Components of the Institute. I sincerely hope that we will have still more cooperative projects in the near future. Such cooperative research efforts are of mutual benefit to the host and the guest countries and reaffirm the longstanding friendship between Thailand and the United States of America.

Malaria prevention and treatment are still major goals which serve to promote the health of the people in Thailand. Studies of viral diseases, especially dengue hemorrhagic fever and hepatitis, also address major medical problems in Thailand. Studies of war wound infections and prevalent zoonotic diseases will produce valuable information for practitioners of both military and general medicine. I appreciate all of these efforts and others, and the dedication and hard work of every Thai and U.S. staff member of the Institute. I wish them success in their research, the results of which will be very beneficial in promoting health in Thailand and elsewhere.



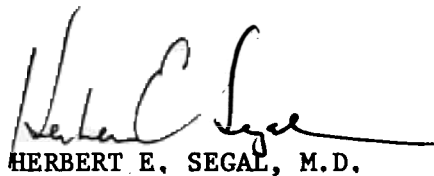
SITHIBUN PURNAVEJA
Air Vice Marshal MC RTAF
Director General
Armed Forces Research Institute
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INTRODUCTION

The bilateral agreement establishing the Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences has proved to be very workable. Under this agreement, new initiatives and better mutual understandings have led to closer collaboration between the Thai and United States Components, not only within the scientific sphere but within the management and support sphere as well. This has permitted us to redirect and intensify professional and technical expertise toward major health problems and distribute more equitably the administrative, support, and financial aspects of Laboratory operation.

Efforts to concentrate on studies of prevalent infectious diseases of Thai military and civilian populations have become central to research planning and conduct. Malaria, hepatitis B, dengue and dengue hemorrhagic fever, and wound infections, are established as major project areas. New initiatives can be expected in hepatitis A and non A non B, and in diarrheal diseases.

Sustaining the quality of the Laboratory's work requires us to attract and hold personnel with contemporary professional and technical skills, to carefully weigh the priorities for competing proposals, and to allocate scarce resources into those areas where goals of importance in disease prevention and treatment are both demonstrable and attainable. The research results summarized in this report indicates that the Laboratory has made considerable progress in these areas.



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